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## A REAL ROMANCE.

ARLY American history offers many a character and incident of civil life which might afford the novelist enough of *real* romance to fill many a volume. Hawthorne has been burrowing in old archives of society and families, and hence has drawn material for several of his masterly and most highly original works. The source is not exhausted by any means: go to the families descended from Lord Baltimore's emigrants, from Penn's colonists, from the Manhattaners, from the Georgian settlers—go to the record of Florida and Louisiana when those territories were under Spanish dominion—go to the records of the Moravians of Ohio and Canada—go to old families, and church and town records, of all New England—and there are data of the most extraordinary character, enough to feed the pens of romancers for several generations.

One of these little personal histories has lately been recalled by the Rev. Mr. Nason, of Natick, in a paper read by him before the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, at one of its late sessions. The character introduced was Sir Charles Franklin, who was collector of the port of Boston during the reign of the second George. The Boston Traveler gives a digest of the paper read, as follows:

"Sir Charles Franklin was the great-grand-son of Oliver Cromwell, and was born in 1717, at the seat of the family in Thistlebury, North Riding of Yorkshire, where the baronet, his descendant, now resides. In 1747, as the fourth baronet, he inherited the baronetcy. He had his choice of the two most desirable appointments in the Massachusetts colony—the governorship of the colony and the collectorship of Boston; and he chose the latter. While in Boston, he was a worshipper at the old King's Chapel, and contributed £50 towards the erection of a new building.

"While here, he had occasion to visit Marblehead, and there saw a young girl of sixteen years, with raven ringlets, scrubbing the floor; but beneath the homely attire he discovered a matchless beauty. She was a working-girl at the tavern; and apparently one of the lowest class. Her name was Agnes Surridge, although it appears in the records of England as

Agnes Brown. There is now in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society, a record of her baptism—April 17, 1726. He accosted her, and gave her money to buy shoes with, as she was barefooted, and then he left, bearing in his heart the remembrance of her beauty. Sometime after he could not help returning; he found her, as before, barefooted, and when he asked if she had done with the money as he wished, she replied that she had bought the shoes, but kept them to wear to meeting. Struck with her wit, her good sense, her beauty, he sought her parents, who were very poor, and obtained leave to remove her to Boston, as his ward. In Boston he placed her at school, clothed her in the best, and in every way sought to develop her body and mind. Deeply in love with her, and himself an accomplished and graceful young man, he succeeded in winning her affections. It grieved him greatly that his family position, and the barriers raised by society around titled persons, prevented him from marrying her, and she finally consented to become his mistress.

"The indignation which this caused among the social circles was great, and he determined to transfer his home elsewhere. Rev. Roger Price had taken up lands in Hopkinton, and Sir Charles Franklin obtained one hundred and thirty acres of it, and built upon it a fine mansion, which he surrounded with every luxury and beauty. Thither he transferred his Agnes, and some of his boon companions. As collector, he had access to the best of wines, and in their festal bouts used a glass of double thickness, which did not contain more than half as much as those of his companions.

"That glass is in existence, and the reader of this manuscript here exhibited one of the wine-glasses used by his companions on those occasions. The latter was a bowl, the size and shape of our ordinary wine glasses, but with the shaft some four inches long, of red and white tinted glass.

"Subsequently Sir Charles Franklin was appointed consul-general to Portugal, and took Agnes with him. In England she was not well received, and they went to Lisbon, and commenced a life of gaiety.

"Mr. Nason here read extensive extracts from the diary kept at Lisbon by the baronet; the first time that the word God appeared in it being subsequent to the great earthquake, which produced a

change in the character of the baronet. At the time of the earthquake, Sir Charles was abroad in his carriage, when the horses were swallowed in the opening earth, and the carriage covered with the ruins of falling buildings. There he lay in a living tomb some time, expecting to be crushed to death every moment. In the agony of that hour a young Spanish girl, who was with him, bit through his scarlet coat a piece of flesh. The coat was afterwards brought to Hopkinton. While in this dangerous position, the evils of his past life came to his mind forcibly, and he resolved to live a better life, should he be saved. Meantime his faithful Agnes was abroad in search of him, and being providentially led to the spot, where, hearing his voice, she offered large rewards for his rescue. He was finally extricated, taken to a friend's house, and, faithful to his vow, he, the next day after, led Agnes to the hymenial altar, and they were married by a Romish priest. Afterwards, in England, the ceremony was again performed by a rector of the Episcopal church.

"From England he came to America, purchased a house on Garden-Court street, of great magnificence in that day, and resided here for some time, Lady Franklin's career as a wife making her a general favorite. He died in Bath, England, 1768. She returned to Boston, and from her splendid house witnessed the battle of Bunker Hill. In 1782, she married John Drew, a wealthy baronet of Chichester, England, and died the next year, of inflammation of the lungs. Sir Henry was very rich, owning four estates—in Hopkinton, England, Portugal and Boston. That in Hopkinton has been greatly enlarged, and passed into the hands of various parties, and the old mansion was destroyed by fire, January 23, 1858, but is being rebuilt, partly on the old model. It is now owned by Rev. Mr. Nason. The house in Boston came successively into the possession of Sarah Swain, D. Maclester, Isaac Surridge of Hopkinton, and was purchased by John Ellis in 1811, and torn down in 1832. A portion of a tessellated coat of arms is in the hands of Samuel Ellis, and Dr. Winslow Lewis has other relics of the family. The baronet died without issue, except a natural son, who reached a somewhat elevated position. Who his other parent was is not certain, but the last record of him was in England, in 1796."